

# **Developing Cultural Capital through Art and Design**

"It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

It follows that, as teachers, we need to ensure that along with teaching the content of the curriculum, we are enabling children to function as well-informed individuals well after they leave school. It is a huge job, but without the guidance of their teachers, some young people have very little cultural and social input from elsewhere. They could, therefore, miss opportunities that other young people are able to access, which could lead them to make decisions that are less informed than they could be.

Now more than ever, the job of the classroom teacher is of such high importance with regard to filling the gaps that students have. To this end at Newlands Junior School we have planned a curriculum to provide our pupils with an ambitious range of knowledge and opportunities which will open doors and give them confidence in wider society.

### Opportunities to develop cultural capital through art and design teaching involves:

#### Curriculum

The way in which we have outlined our Art & Design curriculum at Newlands allows our children to become exposed to greater amounts of Art & Design skills from a wider variety of disciplines and techniques. Each year group follows a clear and comprehensive overview of skills and knowledge to acquire which progressively links with each of the topics in each year group. This will allow our children to grow and be made aware of the wider world within Art & Design which exists outside of their local community.

### School values

We encourage children to learn in many different ways whether this be independently, with a partner or in groups, enabling children the opportunity to develop our core school values of respect, friendship innovation and questioning at every opportunity. We believe that the more opportunity that we give our children to develop these core values, the more likely they are to become well-rounded, considerate members of society.

#### Wider school experiences

Allowing children to experience the wider world of art & design outside of Newlands is exceptionally important, whether this be trips to view prehistoric artwork at Creswell crags or viewing a vast range of art & design installations at the Yorkshire sculpture park. Providing this opportunity to our children allows them to view the wider world and see for themselves the impact that dedication and resilience can have upon becoming a successful learner within art & design. We also endeavour to improve and widen the range of vocabulary within art & design which broadens the acquisition knowledge and further instils a sense of pride and responsibility within their learning.

## Wider use of art & design

We use art & design within a wider, whole school context at Newlands which can be seen within a great range of activities and initiatives. We allow children to express themselves through the use of art & design to show their feelings and communicate their thoughts within such matters as anti-bullying and diversity. We also provide children with a wide range of resources and tools in order for them to best showcase their learning whilst developing their confidence when using unfamiliar materials and/or techniques.